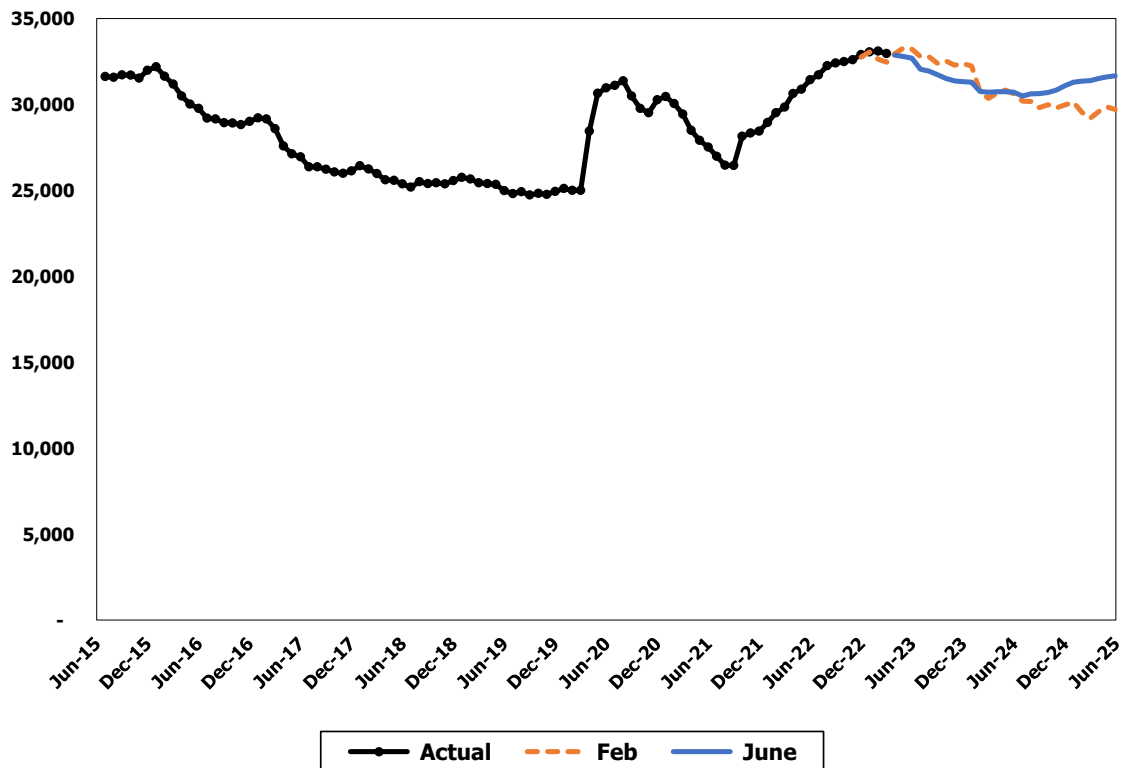


Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Caseload Forecast Council
June 14, 2023

TANF Assistance Units (Courtesy Forecast)



The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) forecast combines two forecasts: one for WorkFirst or “All Family” cases that include children and their parents and one for “Child Only” cases in which the parents or guardians do not receive part of the grant and are not subject to work requirements. WorkFirst cases made up 52% of the caseload during calendar year 2019.

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Feb-23 Forecast	Jun-23 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023	32,655	32,658	3	0.0%
2024	31,721	31,246	-475	-1.5%
2025	29,833	31,103	1,270	4.3%

The June 2023 forecast is 3 cases or 0.0 percent higher than the February 2023 forecast for FY 2023 and, on average, 397 cases or 1.3 percent higher than the February 2023 forecast for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-23	Actual	Variance	Percent
	Forecast			Variance
Dec-22	32,761	32,906	145	0.4%
Jan-23	33,057	33,066	9	0.0%
Feb-23	32,633	33,100	467	1.4%
Mar-23	32,456	32,968	512	1.6%

Actuals have been tracking, on average, 329 cases or 1.0 percent above the February 2023 forecast.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from	Percent
			Prior Year	Change
Actual	2016	31,287		
	2017	28,556	-2,731	-8.7%
	2018	26,032	-2,525	-8.8%
	2019	25,424	-608	-2.3%
	2020	26,182	758	3.0%
	2021	29,701	3,519	13.4%
	2022	28,843	-858	-2.9%
Forecast	2023	32,658	3,815	13.2%
	2024	31,246	-1,412	-4.3%
	2025	31,103	-143	-0.5%

Changes in the caseload are driven primarily by the following:

- An apparent peak of Ukrainian refugees receiving TANF in January 2023, which is forecasted to decline through the end of the forecast horizon;
- The transition from COVID time limit extension policies to the legislated unemployment hardship policy in July 2023, with a steep drop in July projected based on new data;
- HB 1447 that increased resources exempted when determining eligibility for public assistance;
- HB 1447 that increased income disregarded when determining eligibility for public assistance;
- HB 1447 that eliminated the 60 month time limit for Child Only cases;
- A proviso in the biennial budget that increases the TANF grant by 8%; and
- Eliminating the seasonality component from WorkFirst primary trend.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to this forecast are moderately high. The impact of the unemployment hardship TLE policy has not been fully reflected in the data which makes it difficult to project. The COVID TLE step, which is about to end, is based on assumptions about the proportion of “CO” code clients who are actually eligible for other TLE. The number of Ukrainian refugees may change dramatically depending on the course of the Russian invasion in 2023. There is also risk of recession due to interest rate tightening with concomitant risk to the primary trend.

Forecast Contact:
 Webb Sprague
 360-664-9382
 webb.sprague@cfc.wa.gov